

IN THE CLAIMS

~~Please cancel claim 17.~~

Please amend claims 1, 2, 7-10, 12-16, and 18 as follows. Each amended claim is submitted herein in the form of a rewritten claim, that is, in clean form in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(i).

Enclosed on pages separate from the amendment is a marked up version of each amended claim in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

1. (Amended) A method, comprising:

- a. providing: i) a biological sample comprising one or more structural polypeptides; and ii) an acid consisting essentially of an organic acid;
- b. treating said sample with said acid under conditions such that said one or more polypeptides is recovered in a solution, said treating comprising mixing said sample with said acid, incubating said mixed sample and acid, and clarifying said mixed sample and acid to yield a recovered solution.

2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is selected from SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, and SEQ ID NO: 11.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of manipulating said solution under conditions such that insoluble fibers are produced, said manipulating comprising purifying the solution, and concentrating the purified solution.

8. (Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein fibers of polypeptides are produced.

9. (Amended) A method, comprising:

- a. providing: i) host cells expressing one or more recombinant structural polypeptides, and ii) a solution consisting essentially of an organic acid;
- b. treating said host cells with said solution to create a mixture;
- c. removing insoluble material from said mixture; and

d. recovering said one or more recombinant polypeptides in a solution, whereby said treating comprises mixing said cells with said acid, incubating said mixed cells and acid, and clarifying said mixed cells and acid to yield a recovered solution.

15. (Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein said one or more polypeptides is selected from SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, and SEQ ID NO: 11.

12. (Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein said recovered one or more recombinant polypeptides in said solution are manipulated under conditions such that insoluble fibers are produced, said manipulated comprising purifying the solution, and concentrating the purified solution.

13. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein fibers of polypeptides are produced

14. (Amended) A method, comprising:

- a. providing: i) bacterial cells expressing one or more recombinant structural polypeptides, and ii) a solution consisting essentially of an organic acid selected from formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, and valeric acid;
- b. treating said bacterial cells with said solution to create a mixture;
- c. removing insoluble material from said mixture; and
- d. recovering said one or more recombinant polypeptides in a solution, said treating comprising mixing said cells with said acid, incubating

13 [said mixed cells and acid, and clarifying said mixed cells and acid to yield a recovered solution. *12*]

~~15.~~ (Amended) The method of Claim ~~14~~, wherein said one or more polypeptides is selected from SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, and SEQ ID NO: 11.

~~16.~~ (Amended) The method of Claim 14, further comprising the step of manipulating said recovered one or more recombinant polypeptides under conditions such that insoluble fibers are produced, said manipulating comprising concentrating said recovered one or more recombinant polypeptides to create a concentrated solution; and forcing said concentrated solution through a spinneret.

18 ~~18.~~ (Amended) The method of Claim ~~17~~, wherein fibers of polypeptides are produced.